Construction of bridges for development of Cochin Port

*193. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether the construction of three bridges connecting Eranakulam Mulavukad, Mulavukad-Vallarpadam, and Vallarpadam-Vypin which are essential for the development of the Cochin port and the areas around it is proposed to be taken up by the Government, if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): The construction of all the three bridges in question is primarily the responsibility of the State Government of Kerala since they would not lie on the National Highway network after their construction. However, in order to examine the proposal for the construction of these bridges under the Centrally sponsored shceme of Inter-State or Economic Importance, the State Government was requested to bear 50 per cent of the estimated cost of the project includig cost overrun as per the prescribed pattern adopted for projects having inter-State character. But the State Government has been pressing that the project should be financed entirely by the Central Government. Consequently, other avenues to finance projects of this nature are being explored in consultation with the concerned agencies.

Infiltration from Bangladesh

*194. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infiltration from Bangladesh is taking place in Cachar and Karimganj districts in Assam;

(b) if so, the number of Bangladesh infiltrators living in the country at present; and

(c) the steps taken to check further infiltration and deportation of those already there?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to give precise information of such infiltrants living in the country.

(c) Strict surveillance on the border is being maintained. Border outposts and observation post-towers have been set up. BSF have been provided more equipment like patrol vehicles including boats, communication devices and torches.

Training of Central Police Forces, etc.

*195. SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the continuing violence in different parts of the country, any steps have been taken to improve the training of the Central Police Forces and to help the States to improve the training of their police forces; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Special courses are being conducted for State and Central Forces personnel by the Central Police Organisations.

(b) These include training in various techniques of controlling mob violence and terrorist activities, use of more sophisticated weapons and equipment and better tactics in ground combat and patrolling. Disclosure of further details would not be in the public interest.